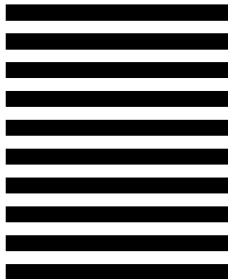




WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
SMALL FOREST LANDOWNER OFFICE
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Forest Landowner
Assistance Programs

Do You Own
Forestland?

www.dnr.wa.gov



WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF
Natural Resources
Caring for your natural resources ... now and forever

Small Forest Landowner Office

1

The Small Forest Landowner Office at the Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) offers a wide range of advice and resources.

Small forest landowners* own 3.2 million acres of Washington's forests—about half of the private forestland in the state. These privately owned forests provide fish and wildlife habitat, clean water, and green landscapes while producing valuable wood products and contributing to the economy of many communities.

The mission of DNR's Small Forest Landowner Office is to promote the ecological and economic viability of small forest landowners. The office and its staff strive to equip landowners with the tools and information they need to keep their land in forestry. As the focal point for information and advice, this office guides small forest landowners in alternative approaches to forest management and accessing publicly funded programs, including (see right):

Forest Stewardship Program p. 3

Family Forest Fish Passage Program p. 5

Forestry Riparian Easement Program p. 7

Long-Term Forest Practices Application p. 9

Alternate Plans p. 11

Contact Information **last page**

***WHO IS A SMALL FOREST LANDOWNER?**

You may qualify for one or more of these programs if you are a forest owner who harvests **less than 2 million board feet** of timber per year on average. Some programs may require additional qualifications.

*Data on acres owned by small forest landowners provided by Rural Technology Initiative
www.ruraltech.org*

Our professional foresters offer free advice and assistance to hundreds of small forest landowners annually.



Forest Stewardship Program

3

DNR provides onsite forest management consultation from DNR foresters, wildlife biologists, and fish biologists, including information on improving forest health and reducing wildfire risk. Learn if you qualify for programs to reduce taxes, access financial assistance, and get recognition for your stewardship. Learn how to develop and implement a multi-resource Forest Stewardship Plan customized to your individual objectives.



STEWARDSHIP



FOREST



Learn about leaving trees for wildlife or removing fuels near your home to keep it safe from wildfire.



Who is Eligible?

Small forest landowners of five or more contiguous forested acres are eligible for an advisory site visit.

What Does it Do?

You'll learn how to develop a Forest Stewardship Plan for all of the forest resources on your property. The plan will guide you in improving forest health, reducing wildfire threats, and reaching other long-term management goals. A Forest Stewardship Plan may also help you qualify for:

- Cost share and financial incentive programs
- Forest land property taxation status

► Forest certification programs, such as the American Tree Farm System

► Stewardship Forest property recognition

This program also works with Washington State University Extension (WSU)* to provide:

- Forest Owner Field Days: Out-in-the-woods educational events to help you manage your land
- Forest Stewardship Coached Planning Short-Courses: Learn how to write a forest stewardship plan
- Classes, workshops, and tours: Conducted throughout the year across the state on a variety of forestry topics

How Does it Work?

- 1 Contact the DNR region office nearest you or use the attached reply card to request a site visit by a DNR Forester
- 2 A DNR Forester will visit your property, answer your questions, offer forest management advice customized to your goals, and can get you started on creating a Forest Stewardship Plan

***For more information about WSU Natural Resource Sciences Extension:**

<http://ext.nrs.wsu.edu/> then click on "Forestry Extension."

The Forest Stewardship program is partially funded by the USDA Forest Service.

Landowner assistance foresters advise landowners on timber harvest, resource protection, leaving trees for wildlife, reducing wildfire risk, attracting waterfowl and many other topics.

Need advice and resources to better manage your forestland?



Call your local DNR Region Office



A DNR Forester will visit to guide you to tools and resources to help keep your forestland productive and ecologically sound.

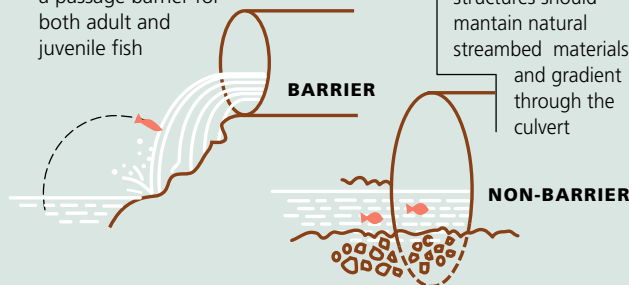


Family Forest Fish Passage Program

5

Get advice and financial assistance to help restore fish populations by removing fish passage barriers on your forestland. This program pays 75 percent to 100 percent of the cost to replace a fish barrier with a fully passable structure.

Outfall drop may create a passage barrier for both adult and juvenile fish



Who is Eligible?

You may qualify if:

- ▶ You are a small forest landowner
- ▶ The barrier is on a fish-bearing stream on your property
- ▶ The barrier is a human-made structure, such as a culvert, dam, weir, puncheon, or spillway associated with a road on your forestland

What Does it Do?

When your barrier is ranked as a high priority project, it will be replaced with a fully passable structure. Just by applying to the Family Forest Fish Passage Program you may be relieved of any state Forest Practices obligations to correct fish barriers until funding becomes available through the program.

How Does it Work?

- 1 Send a completed Application for Fish Passage Barrier Evaluation to the DNR Small Forest Landowner Office
- 2 A Field Technician visits your property to assess the barrier
- 3 Your barrier is ranked in the watershed
- 4 If the barrier is ranked as a high priority, you'll be eligible for funding to repair or replace it
- 5 You will be linked with a project sponsor—local conservation district, regional fishery enhancement group, tribe, or other non-profit group—to manage the project

Contact the DNR region office nearest you or use the attached reply card to get more information or an application.

The Family Forest Fish Passage Program is a partnership between DNR's Small Forest Landowner Office, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the Recreation and Conservation Office.

Need advice and resources to better manage your forestland?



Call the DNR Small Forest Landowner Office



A DNR Forester will visit to guide you to tools and resources to help keep your forestland productive and ecologically sound.



Forestry Riparian Easement Program

7

Help provide fish habitat and receive compensation in exchange for a 50-year conservation easement to maintain trees in riparian (streamside) areas on your land. Wetlands, seeps, springs, and unstable slopes are also eligible. You will still own the property, have full access, and do not have to allow public access after leasing the qualifying trees and riparian function to the state.



WETLAND



Trees required to be left in the riparian area are cruised to help determine value.



Who is Eligible?

You may qualify if you are an eligible small forest land owner and:

- ▶ Own at least one parcel larger than 20 contiguous acres
- ▶ Have timber next to a stream, river, wetland, lake, pond, or on unstable slopes that you plan to harvest in the near future
- ▶ Do not plan to convert the qualifying land to a use incompatible with growing timber (e.g. real estate development)
- ▶ Own your property free and clear of any liens or mortgages or can obtain a subordination agreement from the lien holder

What Does it Do?

If you qualify, you'll receive a minimum of 50 percent of the fair market stumpage value for qualifying timber. You may receive more than 50 percent of the timber value depending on how much impact the leave-trees will have on your harvest. During the 50 year easement you will not be able to harvest trees in the easement area.

How Does it Work?

- 1 Contact a DNR Landowner Assistance Forester
- 2 You submit a Forest Practices Application before the harvest begins
- 3 DNR gets a property title report
- 4 DNR estimates the value of the qualifying timber using your mill receipts or Department of Revenue tables
- 5 DNR's Small Forest Landowner Office sends you an offer letter
- 6 Compensation is paid in one lump sum and a 50-year easement is placed on your land title

Contact the DNR region office nearest you or use the attached reply card to get more information.

Small forest landowners can be paid for trees required to be left next to streams, wetlands, seeps, unstable slopes, and other features.

Need advice and resources to better manage your forestland?



Call your local DNR Region Office



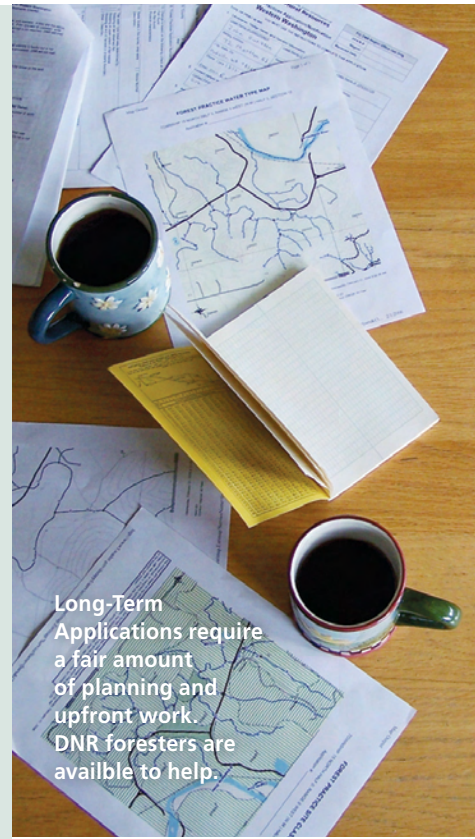
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Long-Term Forest Practices Application

9

Think about the management that you'd like to complete on your property in the coming years. Rather than renewing or rewriting your application every two years, ease the paperwork burden of obtaining a Forest Practices Application from DNR and get more management flexibility.



Who is Eligible?

You may qualify if you are a forest landowner who harvests less than 2 million board feet of timber per year on average.

What Does it Do?

- Provides a long-term forest practices application valid for 3 to 15 years
- Reduces the amount of paperwork over the long-term
- Allows you more flexibility to react quickly to changing markets and unforeseen forest health problems or windthrow
- Encourages long-term planning

How Does it Work?

- 1 Contact a DNR Landowner Assistance Forester at the DNR region office nearest you
- 2 Download instructions and long-term application forms from www.dnr.wa.gov or ask your DNR region office to send the forms to you
- 3 Work with DNR Foresters to complete the two-step application process:

Step 1. Inventory and classify all the natural features and assess road conditions in the application area. Submit the information to the DNR region office nearest you for review (validation takes up to 45 days).

Step 2. Describe and map all of the activities that may be done over the requested time period. DNR will review the proposal to see if you qualify (final approval takes up to 45 days).

Some landowners find great advantages in using the Long-Term Forest Practices Application while others prefer to file the standard application or renew their previous application.

Need advice and resources to better manage your forestland?



Call your local DNR Region Office



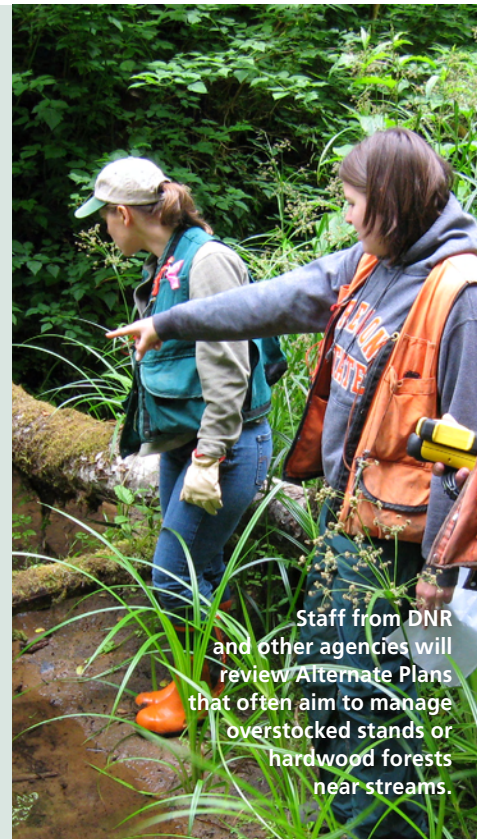
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Alternate Plans

11

Apply for more site management flexibility than the standard Forest Practices Rules allow by filing an alternate plan. An alternate plan can provide greater flexibility as long as it provides protection to public resources, such as water, fish, and wildlife, at least equal in overall effectiveness to the protection that the standard rules provide. Alternate plans are valid for 2 to 5 years.



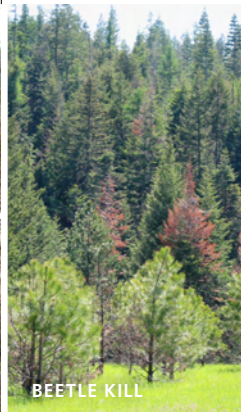
Staff from DNR and other agencies will review Alternate Plans that often aim to manage overstocked stands or hardwood forests near streams.



HARDWOOD CONVERSION



OVERSTOCKED STAND



BEETLE KILL



BLOWDOWN

Who is Eligible?

Any landowner contemplating forest practices activities can apply for approval of an alternate plan, instead of following the Forest Practices Rules.

What Is It?

Management plan that will provide protection of riparian and other ecological functions based on specific field and stream conditions of your property. Use it to manage:

- Overstocked stands
- Forest health, including insect damage, disease, and fuel loading
- Riparian areas
- Disturbed forests, such as harvesting after wildfire or windthrow

How Does it Work?

- 1 Contact the DNR Landowner Assistance Forester in your region
- 2 With the forester's assistance, assess riparian functions currently provided by your forest stand
- 3 Discuss management approaches that will maintain riparian functions over time
- 4 Develop an alternate plan based on maintaining riparian functions, and complete the Alternate Plan Form
- 5 DNR forms an interdisciplinary team (state, federal, and tribal resource professionals) that will visit your property to assess the plan
- 6 If your Alternate Plan is approved as part of your Forest Practices Application, you can begin the planned management activities

Do You Have a Better Idea?



Submit an Alternate Plan as part of a Forest Practices

Application for timber harvest to your local DNR region office. The plan must describe how the proposed alternative prescriptions depart from the Forest Practices Rules and how the proposal will provide sufficient resource protection.

An application with an Alternate Plan may be submitted for either a two-year or a multi-year (five-year limit) period of time.

Need advice and resources to better manage your forestland?



Call your local DNR Region Office



A DNR Forester will visit to guide you to tools and resources to help keep your forestland productive and ecologically sound.



OLYMPIA HEADQUARTERS*
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Olympia, WA 98504-7000
(360) 902-1400

NORTHEAST REGION
225 S. Silke Rd.
PO Box 190
Colville, WA 99114-0190
(509) 684-7474

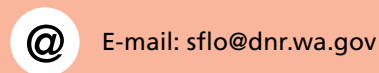
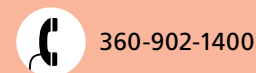
NORTHWEST REGION
919 N. Township St.
Sedro-Woolley,
WA 98284-9384
(360) 856-3500

PACIFIC CASCADE REGION
601 Bond Rd.
PO Box 280
Castle Rock,
WA 98611-0280
(360) 577-2025

OLYMPIC REGION
411 Tillicum Lane
Forks, WA 98331-9271
(360) 374-6131

SOUTH PUGET SOUND REGION
950 Farman Ave. N
Enumclaw, WA 98022-9282
(360) 825-1631

SOUTHEAST REGION
713 Bowers Rd.
Ellensburg, WA 98926-9301
(509) 925-8510



Please send me more information about:

- ☐ **Forest Stewardship Program**
- ☐ **Family Forest Fish Passage Program**
- ☐ **Forestry Riparian Easement Program**
- ☐ **Long-Term Forest Practices Application**
- ☐ **Alternate Plans**
- ☐ Please sign me up for the Small Forest Landowner Office e-mail newsletter to learn of upcoming events, new assistance opportunities, and other information pertaining to small forest landowners
- ☐ I am interested in classes, workshops, and tours for forest owners (your name will be forwarded to WSU Extension)
- ☐ Please ask my Landowner Assistance Forester to contact me

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Name

Address

City

State

Zip Code

Phone (with area code)

E-mail

County where you own forestland

Approximate number of forested acres you own